

House Bill 1481

By: Representative Allison of the 8<sup>th</sup>

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1 To amend an Act providing that the judge of the Probate Court of Union County shall serve  
2 as chief magistrate of the Magistrate Court of Union County, approved February 25, 1997  
3 (Ga. L. 1997, p. 3504), as amended, particularly by an Act approved April 9, 1999 (Ga. L.  
4 1999, p. 3799), so as to provide that the probate judge of Union County shall be elected on  
5 a nonpartisan basis; to provided for related matters; to provide for submission of this Act  
6 under Section 5 of the federal Voting Rights Act of 1965, as amended; to repeal conflicting  
7 laws; and for other purposes.

8 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

9 **SECTION 1.**

10 An Act providing that the judge of the Probate Court of Union County shall serve as chief  
11 magistrate of the Magistrate Court of Union County, approved February 25, 1997 (Ga. L.  
12 1997, p. 3504), as amended, particularly by an Act approved April 9, 1999 (Ga. L. 1999, p.  
13 3799), is amended by revising subsection (a) of Section (1) as follows:

14 "(a) The chief magistrate of Union County shall continue to serve as such until the  
15 expiration of his or her term on December 31, 2012. Beginning at the general election of  
16 2012, a successor chief magistrate shall be elected by the voters of Union County. At such  
17 election and at every election thereafter, the chief magistrate shall be elected on a  
18 nonpartisan basis. The chief magistrate shall serve for a term of four years."

19 **SECTION 2.**

20 The governing authority of Union County shall through its legal counsel cause this Act to be  
21 submitted for preclearance under Section 5 of the federal Voting Rights Act of 1965, as  
22 amended; and such submission shall be made to the United States Department of Justice or  
23 filed with the appropriate court no later than 60 days after the date on which this Act is  
24 approved by the Governor or otherwise becomes law without such approval.

25

**SECTION 3.**

26

All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.